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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,993	10/02/2003	Hitoshi Tanaka	P23962	7797
7055	7590	03/23/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191				PRITCHETT, JOSHUA L
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				2872

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/675,993	TANAKA, HITOSHI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Joshua L. Pritchett	2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shintani (JP 2001-215381).

Regarding claim 1, Shintani discloses a light shielding structure of a lens barrel including an inner ring (44) and an outer ring (40) positioned outside the inner ring so that at least one of the inner ring and the outer ring rotates relative to the other (abstract), wherein the inner ring includes at least one through cutout portion (44b) which radially extends through the inner ring. The cutout portion (44b) would radially extend to accept the thickness of the engagement piece (34b). Shintani further discloses an inner flange wall (52) with the inner ring to be positioned in front of the through cutout portion in an optical axis direction, a first annular groove (52a) formed on an inner surface of the inner flange wall, the first annular groove being centered about the optical axis (Fig. 5), a second annular groove (41a) formed on the inner peripheral surface of the outer ring (Fig. 4), and a light shield ring (46) which includes a cylindrical portion centered about the optical axis (Fig. 4) and an outer flange portion which extends radially outwards from a

rear end of the cylindrical portion so that the cylindrical portion is inserted into the first annular groove to be slidably movable relative thereto, and so that the outer flange portion is inserted into the second annular groove to be slidably movable relative thereto (Figs. 5-8; pages 15-17).

Regarding claim 2, Shintani discloses the inner flange wall is formed as a separate member from the inner ring, the inner flange wall being provided on a front-end surface of the inner ring (Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 3, Shintani discloses the light shield ring is made of synthetic resin, which has a resiliency such that the cylindrical portion and the outer flange portion can be inserted into the first annular groove and the radial annular groove, respectively (page 16). Shintani states that the light shield ring is rubber, which is a synthetic resin with high resiliency.

Regarding claim 4, Shintani discloses the inner flange wall serves as a decorative member, which forms a portion of the front-end appearance of the lens barrel (Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 5, Shintani discloses the outer ring is movable in the optical axis direction while rotating relative to the inner ring, and wherein the inner ring is movable in the optical axis direction without rotating relative to a stationary barrel of the lens barrel (page 15).

Regarding claim 6, Shintani discloses the lens barrel is incorporated in a camera to serve as a photographing lens barrel (page 11).

Regarding claim 7, Shintani discloses the lens barrel comprises a retractable lens barrel, which can be retracted into a camera body when not in use (Fig. 3).

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua L. Pritchett whose telephone number is 571-272-2318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JLP *HP*

  
**DREW A. DUNN**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**